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DEENSON'S THANKSGIVING.

BY CHARLOTTE ROGERS.

The afternoon sun was doing its last nd most effective work of the day; for his was the only hour that anything ke beauty could be said to touch the

Half a dozen cabins divided by a dusty roadway, a blacksmith shop, and a store, constituted the settlement. The road his shoulder. as never empty from a procession of is and chickens, with occasionally a ow-the property of the inhabitants. It was a kind of public barnyard.

- The store and smithy ran each other lose as to which should have the latest bit of gossip to retail to its customers. It was a not unfriendly rivalry, however, and one proprietor was never too proud to listen to what the other had to say. The settlement did not pretend to be a mining village. Its men were hunters in a desultory way, and had lived there some time before the gold fever broke out around them. Some had caught it and gone away, but the majority pre-ferred the old way of life-it involved

less worry and responsibility.
The place was unusually lively this evening, for some miners had come up the valley with wonderful tales of a claim down there that was paying out gold by the handful. They stood in the center of an eager group that completely surrounded and filled the doorway of the

Presently a girl came up the path, with a bucket on her head and her sun connet under her arm. She was small and dark and very pretty, but sad look-

1 wish you all would let me in," she

The men separated, and as she entered estore one of the newcomers asked

"She's Deenson's daughter," said a umb under his suspender and giving it a hitch. "Ain't you never hearn of old Deenson-him as lives over on 'Poverty Flat? He's mad, they say, an' 1 guess he must be or he wouldn't go on fivin' on a worked out claim. He says the gold's there yet; but the other man as owned it hadn't patience. Lord! he's

got patience, but that's about all. Deen-sur's so poor and the claim so low down poor we calls it 'Poverty Flat.' An embarrassed silence fell upon the oup as the girl passed, through it; but she had heard she gave no sign, and

now were the large limp sun bonnet. rich completely hid her face.) As soon as she was gone, a man detouck a trail that a few minutes would s the one that Deenson's daughter

le was a tall, fine looking fellow, of age between twenty and thirty. He te the typical miner's clothes, but had with an easy grace that sugted much mountain climbing. When they met she expressed no sur-

o at seeing him. Ye can carry the pail if ye want ter," replied to his offer, "but there's not in it ter-night to make it heavy. conder what we're goin' to do this iter, Jack?" she went on, with a sigh. will stick to the old claim, though ar's mothin' in it. He ain't much fit to, a if thar war. Sometimes I think ha's a little teched right here," id, pashing-back her bonnet and ng her hand to her head. www.wondered uneasily if she had

and what they said at the store. Tell ve what 'tis, Doll," he began, arrivelly, "it's a dreadful lonely life fur down ere on the Flat, with no un

the old man fur company." Shouldn't seem to think this required

ly answer, and they walked on for a he path that they were following as a very pretty one, but it is doubtful other noticed it. The tall, dark pines tourhead, their soft brown slippery adles" made a carpet under foot, ale the hazy November sunshine, now dang through the tree trunks, cast

departed in the state of the st

it long shadows across the path. After a while he began again, but wly, as if wishing to impress her with cornestness of what he was saying. The knowed ye now, Doll, this/six titles back, an' I dun know how ye els-but, afore God, I'd ruther hear u say, 'Jack, I love ye,' than strike the

of pavin' claim in the state." She stopped with a little gasp, and her ands tightly clasped before her; down went the old sunbonnet all unheeded.

lick," she cried, "Jack, do you mean I ain't got no Bible, Doll," he said, annly, laying his hand upon her head, at I'swar it by the next one of God's rks I hold most sacred, and that's ye." "Then, Jack," she sobbed, "I do love I've most a-died fur fear ye wouldn't

re fur me. Let's go home an' tell dad, an' ye'll stay to supper," sheadded urning to the practical. Outside the cabin they lingered for a resence. The pine woods lay behind them, the mountains before them, with

tops the sunshine still lingered. It was a desolate out! ok, and calculated to subdue the most buoyant spirits. No wonder Doll's eyes were sad.

When they entered they found the old man down on his knees before the fire trying to coax it into a blaze. "Dad," Doll said, "here's Jack Seton

undignified position. She waited until supper was over and the two men were was from the fire. It threw a warm, red

three people before it, and sent their floor, to be lost in the obscurity of the lines and furrows in old Deenson's face, beauty it seemed to linger lovingly, yet, darkness-for the light of love was shin-

Old Deenson spoke, but seldom, and stood behind him, with her hands upon

"Dad," she said, "Jack says that he wants to marry me." She had scarcely spoken before he sprang to his feet with an oath and dashed his ripe into the fire. "Never! so help me God, never! Do ye think I'm goin' to let ye waste yerself on a common miner? Do ye think I've been workin' day in and day out fur ten year

in' in when the claim begins to pay," "Hold on, pard'ner," cried Jack; "the claim'il never pay. I dare say I ain't good enough for Doll, but I can give her plenty to eat an' to wear, an' that's more'r

But old Deenson made no answer, for he had already returned to his golden

seemed at last to begin to tell on him join' ter blow up a rock ter-morrow."

flats," he added, reflectively.

Jack Seton here ter-day?"

blow up a rock ter-morrow, an' somehow or 'nother I'd like ter have ye 'round then. Dad's powerful careless. He's acted awful strange lately, an' kays this is his last chance: I hope nothin' bad won't happen. Joe Stroll says ter-mor row's Thanksgivin'!"

issuringly. "Don't ye take ter frettin'-It was late in the day before he ar-

did that morning.

ing to the powder he had placed in : crevice of the rock before him.

"Wal," said Sal Stroll, telling about it haria of their happiness by another hull state. Wal, I reckon she desarves between. Where they stood it was same as them has on Poverty Flat."already twilight, but on the mountain Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

He's-he's come to supper." Some finer instinct told her that the important news she had to communicate ought not to find her father in such as sitting before the fire smoking: It was a scene that would have looked well on canvas. Doll had put out the lamp, to save oil, and the only light in the room

glow over the faces and clothing of 'the shadows, long and flickering, across the corners. It brought out strongly the and a curious watching look that comes to people from hope deferred. It showed Jack young and vigorous and determined; but around Doll's soft young compared with her eyes, it died away to

when he did, it was always of what he'd do when his luck turned. Doll came and

that ye might be an heiress, an' then let ye spend yer life in these diggin's? Ye're goin' to be rich; the money'll come roll

The whole conversation seemed to plass from him, and he went on patiently dig ging day after day He had been a man of one idea so long now, that it was im possible for him to keep his mind on any

His continued bad luck, however "Doll," he said one day, "if this 'lead don't bring somethin', I'll give up. But it's comin' this time; so thar ain't no use worryin' If ye go to the sittlemint, bring home a charge of powder; I'm

At the store she met Joe Stroll, the man who had told the stranger about 'How's yer dad?" he asked, evidently not expecting any answer, as he went on: "My old woman lowed as how termorrow bein' Thanksgivin', she'd run over ter see yous all fur a spell at noon

Sall's smart, I tell ye. She's the on'y woman in the sittlement as knowed termorrow is Thanksgivin'. Must be pow-erful lonely fur ye down that on the

"Yes, it's lonely-some," she answered Tell Sall I'll be glad ter see her Was

"Wal, I reckon so, bout ten minutes | DR. E. M. WARD, back. Think he was a-goin' yer way." She hurried through her business, and taking the short cut that he had used on a former occasion, she soon came up

"Jack!" she said eagerly, "don't come ter the Flats ter-day. Dad's goin' ter

"That's all right, Doll," said Jack, re-

rived, however, and Doll was watching for him at the door-she thought the place had never looked so dreary as it

"Dad's gone over ter Sunken Rock, she said "that's whar he's workin now But it's all right-he hasn't got the pow

Sure of that, Doll; whar's he keep it "Why, it's thar on the table, ain't it?

No, it's gone! Why, Jack, he's got it! She hurried out, and he after her. It was a long way to Sunken Rock, and she wasted none of her strength in

At last a sharp bend in the path brought them suddenly upon him. He was sitting upon a tree stump, his head in his hands, mumbling to himself, and indifferently watching the flame of a match creep slowly along the wick lead

Instantly they saw their danger. Doll sprang forward, but Jack pushed her back. Never, it seemed to him, had he moved so slowly. . The old man was in his arms-he stumbled under his weight -one step or twenty, he could not tell Then came a horrible sound as if the earth was opening under him, and-

at the settlement, "if that warn't the most remarkable thing! I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't a-seen it Thar war the old man all right; thar war Jack Seton just stunned a bit; thar war Doll on'y upsot as war nateral, an' thar war the rocks layin' all about them as chock full of gold as an egg of meat Jack's goin' ter marry Doll. Old man Deenson wouldn't year of it at first, but he's given in some since Jack saved his life. He never had good sense, nohow, old Deenson-showed that when he sot hisself down on that rock to get blowed to kingdom come. He war right about one thing, though-that's this gold Doli Deenson'll own the richest claim in the it, fur she's been powerful patient with that old dadyof hern Lor', Joe! I wish we all had a reason fur thanksgivin

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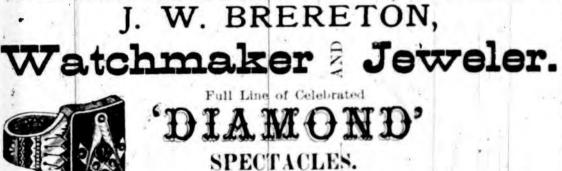
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